

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Planning Committee **DATE:** 7th September 2016
CONTACT OFFICER: Paul Stimpson
Planning Policy Lead Officer
(For all Enquiries) (01753) 875820
WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR DECISION**

DUTY TO COOPERATE CONSULTATION WITH RUNNYMEDE BOROUGH COUNCIL

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to respond to the Duty to Co-operate request made by Runnymede Borough Council that Slough sign a Memorandum of Understanding about future engagement on cross-boundary strategic planning issues.

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The Committee is requested to resolve that:

- a) Runnymede Borough Council be thanked for consulting the Council under the Duty to Cooperate;
- b) the Council agrees that neither party is able to assist the other meeting unmet needs for housing, traveller pitches or B8 distribution needs;
- c) Delegated powers be granted to officers to sign a Memorandum of Understanding in accordance with paragraphs 5.6 to 5.7 below.

3 The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan

3a. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

Ensuring that local needs are met within Local Plans will have an impact upon the following SJWS priorities:

- *Health*
- *Economy and Skills*
- *Regeneration and Environment*
- *Housing*
- *Safer Communities*

3b. Five Year Plan Outcomes

Ensuring that development is properly planned around Slough will contribute to the following Outcomes:

- 1 *Slough will be the premier location in the South East for businesses of all sizes to locate, start, grow and stay.*
- 2 *There will be more homes in the borough with the quality improving across all tenures to support our ambition for Slough.*
- 3 *The centre of Slough will be vibrant, providing business, living and cultural opportunities.*

4 Other Implications

(a) Financial

There are no financial implications of the proposed action.

(b) Risk Management

It is considered that the risks can be managed as follows:

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Risk/Threat/Opportunity</i>	<i>Mitigation(s)</i>
That the committee agree the recommendations in the Report	Not commenting risks losing the ability to influence both the way that development takes place in adjoining areas; and obligations under the Duty to Co-operate.	Agree the recommendations.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act Implications as a result of this report.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There are no equality impact issues.

5 Supporting Information

Background

- 5.1 Local Planning Authorities are required in carrying out their functions to produce Local Plans both to
 - engage constructively and actively on an on-going basis on planning matters that impact on more than one local planning area (the 'Duty to Cooperate'); and
 - consider entering into agreements on joint approaches.
- 5.2 Runnymede Borough Council does not adjoin Slough but are neighbours with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Spelthorne Borough Councils which do. Like Slough they have employment links with Heathrow. In the interests of the Duty to Cooperate they have kept Slough informed of progress on their Local Plan.
- 5.3 The Runnymede Issues and Options Consultation concludes that that Runnymede cannot meet its own identified needs for housing, traveller pitches and B8 storage and distribution.
- 5.4 As a result, in line with the Duty to Cooperate, Runnymede is taking measures to

see if other authorities can meet their shortfall. They have therefore contacted Slough in order that both parties address this through a request to sign a Memorandum of Understanding about future co-operation on Cross Boundary Issues.

5.5 The Memorandum of Understanding is designed for bodies that need to retain contact because they have cross–boundary issues that need resolving. While Slough does not fall into that category, it is considered that a short Memorandum of Understanding can be signed as this would still be helpful.

5.6 That would state the following

“That Both parties agree that whilst at the current time, neither authority is able to assist the other in meeting its unmet needs for housing, traveller pitches or B8 storage and distribution needs, in the future this position could change as a result of a material change in circumstances or as a result of each Council’s monitoring function.”

5.7 It will also confirm that the Council welcomes Runnymede’s engagement in the Heathrow Strategic Planning Group and that it will work with them in that group on issues that may affect both Boroughs.

5.8 Officers will continue to be informed about progress on Runnymede’s Local Plan.

6 Conclusion

6.1 It is considered that the proposed signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Runnymede will ensure that both Authorities have met the Duty to Cooperate in the preparation of their Local plans.

7 Background Papers

Draft Memorandum of Understanding from Runnymede (August 2016).